



Victory Times



Vol. II, Issue 9

Telling the Camp Victory story

Feb. 4, 2006

Camp Victory celebrates African-American/Black History

Story by Pfc. Sean C. Finch

MNC-I PAO

The Multinational Corps-Iraq Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Office here is doing its part to ensure those deployed have the opportunity to participate in the African American/Black History Month Celebration.

The ceremony, held Friday night at the Al Faw Palace, was one of many events throughout the month of February, which focus on the accomplishments made by African Americans.

Sgt. Maj. Evy M. Lacy, human resources and equal opportunities sergeant major, said "I was pleased with the turnout last night. I think it's important for everyone to

understand the background of Black History Month and I am glad that we had such a dynamic guest speaker."

The guest speaker was Col. Joseph Coleman, MNC-I Inspector General. According to Lacy, Coleman was selected to speak at this special occasion because of all the work he has done as a professor of military science in one of his previous assignments.

Coleman served as a Professor of Military Science at Central State University; a Historically Black College where the first ROTC program for African Americans started.

He began his speech by honoring the late Coretta Scott King, who recently passed away.

He then discussed the future of our children and the role we play in instilling values and high standards of behavior.

"As the great Martin Luther King Jr. said, Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter," said Coleman.

"The youth are our future and they do matter. Therefore, don't be silent about our youth achieving excellence."

The ethnic and special observances are a good opportunity for Soldiers and leaders to learn about different groups and we encourage everyone to participate when the opportunity arises, said Lacy.

"The observances gives us an opportunity to celebrate while we are teaching and training."

Pilgrimage to commemorate Imam Hussein

On February 9, 2006, Shi'a observers from throughout the country and around the world seek to commemorate the death of the Imam Hussein in the city of Karbala during the religious festival known as Ashura.

In 680 A.D., Husayn Ibn Ali made a claim to assume the role of Caliph, as the representative of his grandfather Prophet Muhammad. His group had been promised that they would take over the Caliphate when Caliph Mu'awlyya died. Upon the Caliph's death in 680, this promise was not kept, and Mu'awiyah's son Yazid seized power.

Husayn opposed this, and with a tiny army, only around 70 men, women and children, he faced Yazid's far more sizeable army at Karbala. In this battle, Husayn and all his companions were killed. This story is central for Shi'as today, and has gained a position of importance in the Shi'a thinking not unlike the importance of the death of Jesus for Christians or the story of the Exodus for Jews.

Each year, about two million religious observers go to Najaf and Karbala to visit the mosques. Expect to see large numbers

of pilgrims traveling in the Shia towns and villages of southern Iraq on or about February 9, the anniversary of his death. During this pilgrimage, ritual mourning is performed by groups of men. They will strike themselves, even to the point of bleeding, as a token of sorrow and suffering.

Due to the festivities associated with the pilgrimage and celebratory gatherings, many different cities throughout the country expect surges in population and massive crowds gathering in public places. These crowds and the cities around them can become targets for terrorist attacks, as well as all coalition military installations.

Iraqi government officials will institute additional security measures during the Ashura celebration to protect the traveling pilgrims as well as the general population. As in the past, insurgents may escalate attacks using suicide vests, VBIEDs and IEDs during the Ashura period in an attempt to incite sectarian violence.

The mourning period following Ashura ends on March 20, 2006 with the Shi'a celebration of Arba'een.

Iraqi Barracks Construction:

Photos by Senior Airman Jason Bailey

Barry Stuard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, speaks to Iraqi contractors during a quality assurance visit to 8th Iraqi Army Division barracks construction site, Diwaniyah, Iraq, Wednesday.



Stuard photographs a wall for quality control measures during a quality assurance visit to the construction site of Al Jadida Primary Health Clinic, Diwaniyah, Iraq Wednesday.

Chaplain's Corner

As I approach the halfway point of my unit's time here in Iraq, I find myself busier than any other time in my life. My best recreation is reading before I turn in for the night. I have finished American Caesar, a biography of General Douglas MacArthur and I have now begun reading "Clear the Decks", the World War II recollections of Rear Admiral Daniel Gallery. (It was Admiral Gallery's idea to capture the German submarine U-505 on the high seas and confiscate the Enigma coding machine.) As I read Gallery's account of life at sea during wartime I was moved by a passage I found on page 108:

"...Keeping the night watches under a clear sky at sea is good for your soul. On a darkened bridge at night the full grandeur of the heavens soaks into you...when you watch the majestic procession of the constellations across the zenith you can't help thinking of the millions of light years that separate us from the stars, of how long they have been there, of their



Chaplain (Major) Edward Williamson
49th Military Police Brigade

uncountable numbers, and of their vast bulk dwarfing our earth to insignificance. It helps you to put this puny planet of ours and its wars in proper perspective.

It does a lot more than that. It does more than a sermon in a cathedral to make you know beyond possibility of doubt that there is an omnipotent and all wise God, and that the only reason you were born into this world was to serve Him, and be happy forever with Him after your die".

I feel the same way when I stop and stare at the stars today. It is a jaw-dropping spectacle to see the beauty of the Iraqi night sky. I feel a sense of gratitude to the Almighty when

I view His light show and find my soul refreshed. Psalms 8:3-4 declares: "When I consider Your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have ordained. What is man that You are mindful of him? And the son of man that You visit him?"

You and I are far from home, but never far from the loving care of our Creator. May we see darkness from now on as an opportunity for our God to shine!



U.S. Army photo by Spc. James P. Hunter

Sgt. David Thetford, forward observer, convoy security platoon, MultiNational Corps-Iraq, takes his Oath of Enlistment during a re-enlistment ceremony at the Al Faw Palace Friday. Thetford said he looks forward to learning more about his job, and training and leading his troops.

MNC-I LEGAL SERVICES

The MultiNational Corps-Iraq Client Services team would like to welcome all of those who recently began their tour of duty here and introduce ourselves to those who have been in country and are unaware of our services. The services provided here are much the same as those provided at your home duty station. Such services may include, but are not limited to, General and Special Powers of Attorney, Notary services, Personnel Claims, Wills and Domestic Relations. We also provide Soldiers with information on Immigration and Naturalization, Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA), Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and other issues that may occur

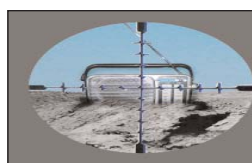
while deployed. Any questions that a Soldier may have concerning taxes, whether filing now or utilizing the Combat Exclusion rule, can also be answered. The MNC-I Client Services team provides the best possible service to those in need of legal assistance in a deployed environment. Future articles will be published in the Victory Times dealing with the immigration and naturalization process and information on the Deployment Tax Center. Feel free to contact our office at 822-2864 or stop by building 133, located next to the lake, in Victory South. Use the blue route at bus stop seven. Our hours of operation are Saturday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

DRIVE SAFELY !!

This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.
Don't be the OTHER driver!!



KEEP IT LOCKED ON...

Al Asad	107.3 FM	Kirkush	107.3 FM
Al Basra	107.3 FM	Mosul	105.1 FM
Al Ramadi	107.3 FM	Q-West	93.3 FM
Baghdad	107.7 FM	Taji	107.3 FM
Balad	107.3 FM	Tal Afar	107.3 FM
Falujah	105.1 FM	Taqadum	107.3 FM
Kirkuk	107.3 FM	Tikrit	100.1 FM

Freedom Radio



Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shoppette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Sunday:

Protestant Service 7 and 8:45 a.m.

Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.

Gospel Service Noon

Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.

Episcopal 4 p.m.

Full Life Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.

Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

Eastern Orthodox services:

Saturday:

Vespers 5 p.m.

Confession 5:30 p.m.

Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:

Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Camp Victory 3-Day Forecast

Saturday



AM Showers

High: 63 F

Low: 46 F

Sunday

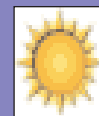


AM Clouds

High: 64 F

Low: 45 F

Monday



Sunny

High: 63 F

Low: 45 F

Army National Guard



Does \$15,000 tax-free interest you?

That's how much re-enlisting in the Army National Guard can mean.

See all your dreams come true.

To learn more about cash bonuses and other great benefits in the National Guard, call Sgt. 1st Class Greg Witzleb

318-822-3775

or see your retention NCO today.



415th Tactical Exploitation Battalion
is hosting a Prayer Breakfast honoring...

AFRICAN AMERICAN BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2006



**COALITION CAFE
TUESDAY
Feb. 7, 2006,
6:30 - 7:30 a.m.**

Guest Speaker:
Major Earl Bedford,
Chief, FOUOPS, MNC-I V Corps

Theme:
"Reaching Out to Youth:
A Strategy for Excellence"

For more information, contact
Sgt. Heath Soules
415th TEL BATT BDE
822-2977 x2
Soules_A,Heath@mc.army.mil



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

10K FUN RUN/WALK



MWR AREA 51

Feb. 19 2006

Show Time 6:30 am

Start Time 7:00 am

Free "T" shirt for the first 200 to complete the run

Sponsored by PROUDARMYPARENTS

Hosted by Sgt. 1st Class Rumph 822-5115

Task Force 30th Medical Brigade Equal Opportunities Adviser

What you don't see
could kill you.



Look for secondary
explosive devices.



0002

IEDs KILL

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to brain.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

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Victory Base Open Circle



(VBOC)



Spiritual Philosophy and Practice of Wicca

Meets 1830 every Friday at the Tiger Land Chapel, Camp Liberty (and on Wiccan holidays of course).

For more information or Questions? Visit the Yahoo Group at
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VBOC_Baghdad

All Are Welcome!